



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6941

LCO No. 4412

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL ERRORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 (NEW) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Medical errors" means any error in providing health care related
3 to (A) the administration of medication or intravenous solutions,
4 including, but not limited to, prescribing incorrect medication, (B) the
5 misdiagnosis of or failure to diagnose a medical condition, (C) surgical
6 procedures, (D) infection control procedures, and (E) such other
7 incidents as the commissioner may prescribe by regulation; and
- 8 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health.
- 9 (b) Each hospital, outpatient surgical facility and outpatient clinic
10 shall adopt a plan to substantially reduce or eliminate the occurrences
11 of medical errors at such hospital, facility or clinic. Such plan shall be
12 submitted to the commissioner for the commissioner's approval not
13 later than December thirty-first, annually. Each hospital, outpatient
14 surgical facility and outpatient clinic shall make such reports of
15 medical errors to the commissioner as the commissioner may prescribe

16 by regulation.

17 (c) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with
18 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the provisions of this
19 section. Such regulations may include, but shall not be limited to, (1)
20 requirements for the reporting of medical errors to the commissioner
21 by hospitals, outpatient surgical facilities and outpatient clinics, (2)
22 provisions specifying other incidents that constitute medical errors for
23 purposes of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, and (3)
24 requirements for the plan required under subsection (b) of this section.

25 (d) On or before March first, annually, the commissioner shall
26 submit a report concerning compliance with the provisions of this
27 section to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly
28 having cognizance of matters relating to public health, in accordance
29 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

Statement of Purpose:

To require the adoption of a plan to substantially reduce or eliminate medical errors by hospitals, outpatient surgical facilities and outpatient clinics and to establish related reporting requirements.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]